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State of Nevada
KENNY C. GUINN
Governor

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Administration
Facsimile 687-5856

Water Quality Planning
Water Pollution Control
Facsimile 687-4684

Mining Regulation & Reclamation
Facsimile 684-5259



Air Pollution Control
Air Quality Planning
Facsimile 687-6396

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Notice of Proposed Action

December 06, 2004

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for renewal of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the **Gold Acres Heap Leach Project**, a gold mining and beneficiation facility operated by Cortez Gold Mines, Inc., has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for renewal of Water Pollution Control Permit **NEV0094102** is:

Cortez Joint Venture

HC66 Box 1250

Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821-1250

The facility, operated by Cortez Gold Mines, Inc., is located on public and private land in Lander County, within Sections 25 and 36, Township 28 North, Range 46 East, Section 31, Township 28 North, Range 47 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, approximately 65 air-miles southwest of the town of Elko.

The project consists of a gold mining and heap leaching facility, with a maximum permitted production rate of 1,500,000 tons of ore per year. The facility is comprised of an open pit mine, a heap leach pad, a barren solution pond, a pregnant solution pond, and a carbon adsorption recovery plant. Facilities are required to be designed, constructed, operated and closed without any discharge or release in excess of those standards established in regulation except for meteorological events which exceed the design storm event. It is estimated the facility will disturb approximately 550 acres of public and private land and has a remaining operating life of less than 5 years.

The Administrator is constrained to issue the renewal Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the renewal Permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed Water Pollution Control Permit, to recommend terms and conditions for consideration of incorporation into the permit, or who request a public hearing pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code, NAC Chapter 445A, must submit their written comments, objections, or requests no later than 5:00 PM on the 30th day following the date of publication of this notice (**07 January 2005**) to:

Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation
333 West Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0851

All comments or objections received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding this Water Pollution Control Permit. If the Division determines written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in this matter, the Administrator shall schedule a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of NAC 445A.405.

The draft Water Pollution Control Permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 445A.665. For more information, contact Miles Shaw on (775) 687-9409, toll free in Nevada (800) 992-0900, extension 4670, or visit our website at <http://ndep.nv.gov.bmrr/bmrr01.html>